

complexity of the Sahelian climatic situation is stressed. This will be small consolation to the people of the Sahel; but perhaps administrators will appreciate the need to see their exploitation policies against a realistic climatic backcloth, rather than be tempted to think that a series of 'bad luck' events have confounded their resource-management policies.

The initial issue of this promising Journal also contains articles on the chemical characteristics of a desert stream, the effect of stones as modifiers of desert environments, litter in desert ecosystems, species diversity in mesic and xeric communities, and the decomposition process in semi-arid regions. One article deals with water law in an oasis which, in terms of 'fair dealing', makes fascinating reading.

The Journal is produced to a high standard and promises to combine science and socio-economic topics in a most interesting manner. It is one of the more welcome additions to the journal list.

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Journal of Ethnopharmacology, Edited by L. RIVIER & J. G. BRUHN, Elsevier Sequoia, Lausanne, Switzerland: Volume 1, No. 1, pp. 1–97+, illustr., 24 × 16 × 0.8 cm, January 1979.

The arrival of an important new scientific journal is always a major event—especially when it relates to a new discipline. Research workers in this field can now find an authoritative outlet for their discoveries, and it was to fill this growing need that this Journal was conceived, and eventually came to fruition through the initiative of an eminent British pharmacist, C. B. Holliday, FPS, FLS, with two of the younger generation of workers in this discipline—Dr L. Rivier, of the University of Lausanne, and Dr J. G. Bruhn, of the Swedish Medical Research Council's Department of Toxicology in Stockholm—acting as joint editors.

As defined by the Editors, the scope of the new journal is a multidisciplinary one devoted to bioscientific research on indigenous drugs, and is concerned with the observation, description, and experimental investigation, of such drugs and their biological activities. The fact that among its illustrious advisory editors are such names as Farnsworth, Swain, Wilbert, and Schultes, will ensure the new journal's acceptance by research workers in this field.

This first issue of the journal, apart from the editorial and the short communications, presents four articles of high scientific standard and documented with comprehensive references; they deal respectively with the interdisciplinary appraisal of Jaborandi, the hallucinogenic plants of the Tarahumara, the herbal remedies of the Maritime Indians, and the assessment of cocaine in the blood of coco-chewers.

This journal has started at the right time, when there is an increasing interest in research on ethnobotany and traditional medicine, which has been promoted recently by the World Health Organization. It is a fact that many valuable drugs of today (e.g. atropine, digitalis, and reserpine), have been introduced into the pharmacopoeias

of the world after investigating folk remedies. The discovery of medicinal herbs and their effective usages in treating common ailments, have become of increasing importance in the world of medical opinion—particularly to offer the hundreds of millions of sick people in developing countries a cheap, safe, and effective, remedy. In this context the table, given in this issue, of the plants employed by Indian herbalists together with their uses (pp. 53–63), will be of great interest to research workers in traditional medicine.

This new quarterly Journal is published by Elsevier Sequoia SA, P.O. Box 851, 1001 Lausanne 1, Switzerland. The subscription rate (including postage) is 150 Sw. Frs per annum (approx. US\$79).

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World List of National Parks and Equivalent Reserves

Dr Jean-Paul Harroy, Professor at the Free University of Brussels, formerly Governor and Resident General of Rwanda-Urundi and Author of the *United Nations List of National Parks and Equivalent Reserves* which was published in French in 1967 and in English in 1971 (with an addendum in 1972), and his collaborator, the undersigned, are currently preparing a new edition of this book which described some 1200 'good' national parks and reserves in 140 countries of the world.

The new book, which will probably be entitled 'World List of National Parks and Equivalent Reserves', will no longer be an IUCN or U.N. publication but will be printed as before by Hayez, Brussels, with IUCN agreement. It is a private venture to face the numerous demands for a new edition of the 'World List', which is now out of print.

Every country of the world will be represented in the new book, including those not belonging to the U.N. Those countries that do not yet have a protected area deserving to be fully described as such will be mentioned, with their projects or first attempts to create some kind of nature reserve or reserves. This is the case for instance with Egypt, Iraq, Burundi, and some others.

A full description, including administrative data, information on the fauna and flora, and details of tourist facilities available, will be given for the protected areas answering selective criteria. These criteria will remain the same as for the U.N. List printed in 1971. To be included in the book, the parks and reserves should have a minimum size, a strictly protected status, and adequate supervisory staff and budget. It is expected that some 1,500 protected areas will be described in the book under preparation. New national entries will include South Korea (which now has a good network of national parks), Cyprus, Afghanistan, China, and countries not belonging to the U.N.—such as East Germany, North Korea, etc.

The book is expected to be published in 1981. It will be available from Hayez Imprimeurs-Editeurs, 4 rue Fin, 1080 Brussels.

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